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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/543,612	04/05/2000	Brian T. Cunningham	DR-308J	6510

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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN JR, JOHN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2856

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/543,612

Applicant(s)

CUNNINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

John E. Chapman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 26-40 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. in view of Bowers.

White et al. discloses a sensor for measuring the mass of a substance on a membrane and teaches employing the sensor as a deposition monitor for use in an evaporation or sputtering system (col. 11, line 61, to col. 12, line 4). White et al. does not mention using the apparatus to determine the concentration of a non-volatile residue. Bowers teaches metering a known volume of liquid 55 in Fig. 7 on a SAW resonator 52 and allowing the liquid to evaporate in order to measure the level (i.e., concentration) of non-volatile residue in the liquid. Note col. 14, lines 30-49. It would have been obvious in view of Bowers to provide a known volume of a liquid on the sensor of White et al. and allowing the liquid to evaporate in order to measure the level of non-volatile residue in the liquid. Merely to use the evaporation sensor of White et al. in the evaporation system of Bowers would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claims 27 and 29-32, White et al. discloses a plate wave resonator in Fig. 11a having a membrane layer 111 whose resonant frequency is determined by the properties of the surrounding environment, including the mass of a loading fluid.

Regarding claim 22, Bowers teaches depositing a volatile solution on the resonator. Note col. 12, lines 18-28.

Regarding claim 32, White et al. teaches providing a plurality of transducers 109 (col. 15, line 9). The transducers appear to be piezoelectric and, if not, it would have been obvious to provide transducers comprising a piezoelectric layer 46 in Fig. 4.

Regarding claim 39, it is well known in the art, and would have been obvious, to provide a means to display the mass of the substance. Note col. 11, lines 27-29, of White et al.

Regarding claim 42, the apparatus of White et al. appears to inherently be capable of measuring a change of mass of a substance within the sub-nanogram range, and, if not, merely to increase the range of sensitivity of the device would have been obvious.

3. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. in view of Bowers as applied to claim 28 above, and further in view of Ballato.

The only further difference between the claimed invention and the prior art consists in providing an array of sensors. Ballato teaches providing an array of sensors in order to sense the presence of a plurality of chemical agents. It would have been obvious in view of Ballato to provide an apparatus comprising an array of sensors of White et al. in order to sense the presence of a plurality of chemical agents.

4. The Affidavit under 37 CFR 1.132 filed June 13, 2005 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 26-40 and 42 based upon White et al. in view of Bowers, and claim 41 further in view of Ballato, as set forth in the Office action because it (1) fails to provide evidence of unexpected results, (2) fails to provide sufficient evidence of commercial success, (3) fails to

establish a nexus between the claimed invention and the evidence of commercial success, and (4) fails to provide sufficient evidence of long-felt need.

Regarding (1), the proffered evidence consists of a statement of Charles Spangler, an employee of RJ Lee Group, Inc., which has taken a license from the Assignee of the present patent application. Mr. Spangler states that the RJ Lee Group, Inc. took a license for this patent application because the subject invention provides the ability to measure Non-volatile Residue (NVR) concentrations at the nanogram and the sub-nanogram level and because the invention is able to operate significantly faster than other prior art devices. The statement, however, is not accompanied by any evidence either to the effect that the ability to measure NVR concentrations at the nanogram and the sub-nanogram level is unexpected, or to the effect that the invention is able to operate significantly faster than other prior art devices. Hence, it is not evident that the ability to measure NVR concentrations at the nanogram and the sub-nanogram level is not possessed by the prior art, nor that the invention is able to operate significantly faster than other prior art devices. It is not evident that the Affiant is comparing the invention with the closest prior art, since the prior art is not identified, nor is it evident that the invention is able to operate significantly faster than other prior art devices, since no comparative data is provided. An affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 must compare the claimed subject matter with the closest prior art to be effective to rebut a prima facie case of obviousness. *In re Burckel*, 592 F.2d 1175, 201 USPQ 67 (CCPA 1979).

Regarding the Clean Technology Award of 2002, it is not clear from the award what “revolutionary benefits” the NanoScale 9100 offers, nor is it clear that the NanoScale 9100 was compared to the closest prior art.

Regarding (2), Mr. Spangler states that since the RJ Lee Group, Inc. began manufacturing the NanoScale 9100, twenty-three different companies have made separate inquiries about purchasing the NanoScale 9100. However, it is not clear that twenty-three separate inquiries constitute commercial success. It is not clear that any sales resulted from the twenty-three inquiries, nor is it clear what sales would normally be expected in the market. Without hard evidence of commercial success, a determination of commercial success cannot be made. See MPEP § 716.03.

Regarding (3), merely showing that there was commercial success of an article which embodied the invention is not sufficient. *Ex parte Remark*, 15 USPQ2d 1498, 1502-02 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990). An applicant must show that the claimed features were responsible for the commercial success of an article if the evidence of nonobviousness is to be accorded substantial weight. See *In re Huang*, 100 F.3d 135, 140, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1690 (Fed. Cir. 1996). There is no evidence of record that the twenty-three inquiries regarding the NanoScale 9100 were due to the claimed features and not, for examples, due to extensive advertising or position as a market leader. See MPEP § 716.03(b).

Regarding (4), establishing long-felt need requires objective evidence that an art recognized problem existed in the art for a long period of time without solution. There is no showing that others of ordinary skill in the art were working on the problem and if so, for how long. In addition, there is no evidence that if persons skilled in the art who were presumably working on the problem knew of the teachings of the above cited references, they would still be unable to solve the problem. See MPEP § 716.04. The fact that twenty-three different

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companies have made separate inquiries about purchasing the NanoScale 9100 does not establish that an art recognized problem existed in the art for a long period of time without solution.

In view of the foregoing, when all of the evidence is considered, the totality of the rebuttal evidence of nonobviousness fails to outweigh the evidence of obviousness.

5. Applicant's arguments filed June 13, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither White et al. nor Bowers teach, disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 26, 27, 28 and 30. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Applicant argues that the combination of White et al. and Bowers is improper since White et al. teach away from combining it with a reference such as Bowers, specifically, since White et al. teach against the use of SAW sensing devices. However, Bowers has not been relied upon to suggest modifying the apparatus of White et al. to use a SAW sensing device. There is no necessity, either in the operation of the device or in the claimed subject matter, to use a SAW sensing device. Bowers has been relied upon only to suggest the utility of the apparatus of White et al. for determining the concentration of a non-volatile residue. Bowers has not been relied upon to suggest replacing the Lamb wave or plate wave resonator of White et al. with a SAW device. White et al. discloses Lamb wave or plate wave sensors that may be employed as a deposition monitor for use in an evaporation system, while Bowers discloses an evaporation

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system in which a known volume of liquid is deposited on a sensor and allowed to evaporate in order to measure the level (i.e., concentration) of non-volatile residue in the liquid. Hence, Bowers is relied upon merely to suggest a particular utility for the sensor of White et al., namely, in a particular evaporation system that may employ the sensors of White et al. as a deposition monitor. The level of ordinary skill in the resonant sensor art is high, and it is within the level of ordinary skill in the art to seek to extend the utility of a resonant sensor of general utility to applications of particular utility. Accordingly, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to seek to extend the utility of the resonant sensor of White et al. as a deposition monitor in an evaporation system to the specific utility as a deposition monitor in an evaporation system for measuring the level of non-volatile residue in the liquid, and Bower would have suggested such specific utility to one of ordinary skill in the art.

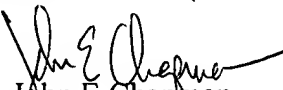
Applicant argues that the examiner's motivation for combining the references is that the level of ordinary skill is high. However, the examiner's motivation for combining the references is that such would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. The level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art is a factual inquiry to be resolved in determination of obviousness under 35 USC 103, as set forth in *Graham v. John Deere* and as acknowledged by applicant (Remarks, page 2). The fact that the level is high does not preclude a determination of obviousness.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John E. Chapman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2191. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John E. Chapman
Primary Examiner
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